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Message Text

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70
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APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LOWENSTEIN
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CIEP:RSTERNFELD
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AID:PSIMON (DRAFT)
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AGRI:GWHITE (DRAFT)
EUR/RPE:EPREEG
S/S: WHLUERS
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O 220115Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING: COMMENTS ON
PARAGRAPHS 8-9 OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

REF: OECD 12107, CES/74/50, STATE 105656

1. THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS STATE 105656 AND PROVIDES
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GUIDANCE ON PARAS 8 AND 9 OF SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT COM-

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MUNIQUE.

2. IN PARA 8 WE HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH THE PHRASE "CONTRIBUTE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO THE FOLLOW-UP WORK OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA ON RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT." THIS BLANKET ENDORSEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED LDCS BUT ALSO A NUMBER OF ELEMENTS IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM OF ACTION ADOPTED AT THE UNGA WITH WHICH WE STRONGLY DISAGREE. AN ACCEPTABLE REFORMULATION OF THIS PHRASE IS CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH, WHERE WE THINK IT MORE LOGICALLY BELONGS BECAUSE PARA 9 IS CONCERNED WITH THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF THE LDCS WHEREAS PARA 8 RELATES MORE TO THE LONGER TERM.

3. IN PARA 9 WE CANNOT SUBSCRIBE EITHER TO A SPECIFIC TARGET FIGURE OR TO SPECIFIC FORMS THAT SPECIAL AID MIGHT TAKE. WE MUST FIRST GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE SPECIFIC FORMS OF AID WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE. THIS, AS WELL AS OUR RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS, PRECLUDES US FROM ENDORSING ANY FORM OF SPECIFIC COMMITMENT. A REFORMULATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO US MIGHT READ:

"MINISTERS EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE ACUTE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF CERTAIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY INDICATED THEIR GOVERNMENTS INTENTIONS TO CONTINUE FURTHER TO DEFINE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSES IN THE OECD AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES. MINISTERS ALSO STATED THEIR READINESS TO RESPOND IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO THE APPEAL OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE LAST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE DAC ARE DETERMINED TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES. THEY EXPRESS THE BELIEF THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SHARE IN MITIGATING THE EFFECT OF COMMODITY PRICE RISES ON LOW INCOME COUNTRIES LEAST ABLE TO BEAR THIS BURDEN."

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4. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING POSITION, WE SEE NO NEED FOR A SEPARATE DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. RUSH

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